

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.    An apparatus for manufacturing a silicone cover for  
a breast implant, having a dipping station for repeatedly  
immersing at least one mould of said cover in a plastic  
solution, wherein the mould at its lower side is placed on an  
adjustable arm, such that an upper side of the mould stays  
10 free of obstructions, wherein during operation the arm can be  
adjusted in order to position the mould so as to allow an  
upwardly-oriented end of the mould to be dipped into the  
plastic solution prior to immersing the entire mould in said  
solution.
- 15           2.    An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the arm  
has a pivoting point located above the plastic solution,  
about which pivoting point the arm is adjustable over at  
least 90°.
- 20           3.    An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein viewed in  
the direction of processing, the same is provided with an  
evaporating oven placed after the dipping station, for  
evaporating an excess of solvent from the plastic solution  
25 present on the mould.
4.    An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a curing  
oven is provided succeeding the evaporating oven.

5. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the evaporating oven is equipped with an inlet and outlet for air, with the inlet in relation to the mould being located in a top of the evaporating oven and the outlet being located at a height of a dipping tank for the mould provided in the dipping station.

6. A method for manufacturing a silicone cover for a breast implant, wherein a mould for this cover is repeatedly dipped in a plastic solution, and after repeated dipping of the mould, at least one curing treatment takes place wherein prior to said repeated dipping the mould is partly immersed in the plastic solution such as to first allow a topside of the mould to come in contact with the solution.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein after the last dipping operation, solvent is evaporated at an elevated temperature.